

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: May 6, 2010

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:43 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Mike Speedy, Chairman
Ginny Cain
Brian Mahern
Dane Mahern
Janice McHenry
Mary Moriarty Adams
Christine Scales

ABSENT MEMBERS

Angela Mansfield

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 243, 2009 - approves and authorizes execution of an agreement between the City of Indianapolis and Hamilton County, Indiana, for the exercise of eminent domain authority and the construction of highway and drainage improvements in Marion and Hamilton Counties

"Do Pass"

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 128, 2010 - appropriates \$90,000 in the 2010 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Federal Grants Fund) to fund activities related to the development of rain gardens in the city, a tree planting and maintenance program at the IREF, and an energy-efficiency retrofit program

"Do Pass As Amended"

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 129, 2010 - authorizes parking restrictions on the north side of Brookside Avenue at Newman Street (District 9)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 8-0

Update from the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District-Dennis Slaughter

Public Works Committee

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, May 6, 2010. Chairman Mike Speedy called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. with the following members present: Ginny Cain, Ben Hunter, Brian Mahern, Dane Mahern, Janice McHenry, Mary Moriarty Adams and Christine Scales.

PROPOSAL NO. 243, 2009 - approves and authorizes execution of an agreement between the City of Indianapolis and Hamilton County, Indiana, for the exercise of eminent domain authority and the construction of highway and drainage improvements in Marion and Hamilton Counties

Brad Davis Hamilton County Highway Director stated that they feel that their proposal mitigates most of the concerns that have been expressed previously. He stated that this proposal will shift the roundabout to the north and to the east. He stated that this completely avoids any right of way needed from the southwest corner. He stated that about ninety percent of the right away needed for this project will be on the Hamilton county side, and nine percent on the southeast corner. He stated that there are considerable additional expenses; they will need to buy some additional total right away and relocate a utility lift station.

Councillor Speedy stated that they have answered the concerns of the people involved, and that he is grateful for the time spent to continually massage and come up with the current proposal. He stated that he is sure that it is a considerable cost but feels that the values and quality of life in the area will more than justify that.

Councillor Cain asked if they would be purchasing the home on the north east side of the street. Mr. Brad Davis clarified that the person who owned the house is now deceased and that they will be negotiating with his estate.

Mr. Davis stated that the exhibit has changed some, the limits of their project have change some due to some issues with the Carmel annexation agreement, which prohibits road widening, they are going to delete that work at this time, however it does allow for intersection improvements so they will be continuing with that portion of the overall project.

Public Comment

Julio Tierno stated that as a member of the board at North Willow Woods, stated that they greatly appreciate Hamilton county highway engineers and staff for heeding their concerns, and expects that they will abide by those conditions. He stated that there is still a concern as to where the Pike township school bus will stop to pick up their children. He stated that they urge the Hamilton County Highway engineers and staff to seriously and responsively take the required measures to consider this important item in

their project in order to safeguard their children, it is the responsible thing to do.

Susan Blair, President, Pike township residence association, thanked the Hamilton County representatives for the compromise and for working with the neighbors, the residence association and the City County Councillors. She stated that Mr. Davis contacted her with the revised plan, and that she has received no negative comments regarding it. She stated that she would appreciate if the committee makes certain that the plan is drafted into the final agreement so that they will know for certain what the residences will have at the end of the day.

Ellen Dollennair thanked Hamilton County and the council for listening to their concerns. Councillor McHenry stated that exhibit A showed 96th street as being straight like it currently is, but that on exhibit B it shows it going further north and then coming back down. Mr. Neal stated that exhibit A is a conceptual to show the general limits, East West, North, South along 96th street and Township Line Rd, they just wanted to show that they were shortening the length of work along 96th street. He stated that Exhibit B displays the way the roundabout is being designed. Councilor McHenry asked if they had been working with Pike Township Schools as to how they will safely pick up and discharge the students. Mr. Davis stated that they discussed the issue with the Pike Township transportation department, and they sent an email stating the following "No turn lane is necessary or wanted into the condo complex on the southwest corner of the intersection. Due to the law stating that buses must pull to the far right of the roadway, they would be required to make our student stops in the turn lane causing us hardships in pulling back into traffic and also taking the risk of traffic not stopping for our stop arm." He stated that their desire is to stop, put out arm and stop traffic. Councillor Speedy clarified, that Pike township transportation feels it is safer not to have a turn lane, because they expect traffic to stop, and if they had a turn lane it may encourage illegal maneuvers that could be dangerous to the students.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Cain, to send Proposal No. 243, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 128, 2010 - appropriates \$90,000 in the 2010 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Federal Grants Fund) to fund activities related to the development of rain gardens in the city, a tree planting and maintenance program at the IREF, and an energy-efficiency retrofit program

Councillor Hunter moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams to amend Proposal No. 128, 2010. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Councilor D. Mahern asked for what reason they needed to split the money into two different categories. Mr. Michael Williams, CFO, Department of Public Works stated that it was a mistake that happened, putting all the money in character 3, the proposal

calls for supplies to build the rain gardens, which should come out of character 2 as they go thru the procurement process, it needs to be in the proper category. John Hazlett, Project Manager, Office of Sustainability, stated that they submitted this grant application in December 2008, and (EPA) Environmental Protection Agency finally decided to fund this program in the fall of 2009. He stated that this spring they were notified that they were one of the three awards in the country under this program. EPA sustainable skylines is a voluntary program for cities that promote best practices in air and water quality, with an emphasis on innovative projects to educate the public and engage the nonprofit sector as much as possible. He stated that with that in mind they focused on rain gardens and tree planting. Rain Gardens are low lying landscape depressions where storm water is directed towards them, they are planted with deep rooted plants that are going to be able to remove pollutants from storm water. He stated that they came up with a few projects for the grant proposal; one was a rain garden educational program at Tech High School, where students can learn the how and why of rain gardens. They also had an enhancement to an existing street scape improvement project on Alabama street, basically bringing a rain garden component into an existing plan project. He stated that also in this grant is money to fund rain garden and rain barrel workshops for citizens. He stated that they also have a worker reentry tree planting and maintenance program, working with the John Boner community center as well as Indianapolis Re-entry educational facility (IREF), and with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful neighborhoods program that has a goal of planting 2012 trees on the near eastside by 2012. This grant would create a program with IREF to plant trees and maintain trees in that area.

Councillor Speedy asked when they learned that they had received the grant. Mr. Hazlett stated that they were notified in the fall of 2009, their original application asked for 123,000 and they were asked to reduce that back to 90,000. He stated that they received the official assistance agreement document in April 2010.

Councillor Speedy asked how quickly they could get the projects going. Mr. Hazlett stated that they have proposed a start date of spring 2010.

Councillor B. Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Scales to send Proposal No. 128, 2010, to send Proposal No. 94, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 129, 2010 - authorizes parking restrictions on the north side of Brookside Avenue at Newman Street (District 9)

Nathan Sheets (DPW) stated that this proposal authorizes the department of Public Works to implement parking restrictions on the north side of Brookside Avenue, west of Newman Street. He stated that they received a request from Ellen Robinson, Executive Director, Face Animal clinic. He stated that they are undergoing some renovations and in order to provide a safe crossing for the patrons, they are recommending that slight parking restrictions be installed. He stated that this will open up the sight distance triangle and allow individuals to see the cars that are coming.

Councillor Cain moved, seconded by Councillor B. Mahern to send Proposal No. 129, 2010, to send Proposal No. 94, 2010 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Update from the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District-Dennis Slaughter to follow.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Works Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Speedy, Chair
Public Works Committee

MS/kln

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